

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 ROME 07096 191441Z

43

ACTION HEW-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 SCI-06 RSR-01 RSC-01 /042 W

----- 128899

R 191350Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9898

UNCLAS ROME 7096

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TPHY, TBIO, IT

SUBJ: UNCERTAINTIES ABOUT SAFETY OF PLASTIC CONTAINERS USED  
FOR BLOOD

DEPT PASS FDA

REF: STATE 139829

1. ITALIAN PRESS REPORTED IN EARLY JUNE THAT PLASTIC CONTAINERS FOR STORAGE OF BLOOD PRODUCED BY MCGAW AND OTHER FIRMS WERE SEIZED BY ROME MAGISTRATE FOR INVESTIGATION AND ANALYSIS. FOLLOWING THESE SEIZURES, MINISTRY OF HEALTH BANNED SALE OF SUCH PLASTIC CONTAINERS. HOWEVER BAN WAS SHORT-LIVED SINCE IT PRODUCED CRISIS IN BLOOD TRANSFUSION CENTERS BECAUSE OF LACK OF IMMEDIATE SUBSTITUTE FOR PLASTIC CONTAINERS.

2. THIS MATTER WAS DISCUSSED WITH PROFESSOR IGNAZIO LIOTTA DIRECTOR OF RESEARCH LABORATORY OF NATIONAL CENTER FOR BLOOD TRANSFUSION. LIOTTA REPORTS THAT ITALIAN LAW ADOPTED IN 1971 SETS A MAXIMUM LEVEL OF PLASTICIZED SUBSTANCES, WITH WHICH PVC IS TREATED, PERMITTED TO ENTER BLOOD SOLUTION. THIS LAW IS MODELLED AFTER COUNCIL OF EUROPE PROPOSAL WHICH HAS BEEN BASIS FOR SIMILAR LAWS IN OTHER EUROPEAN COUNTRIES.

3. LIOTTA TOLD US THAT SOME OF PLASTIC CONTAINERS EXAMINED WERE RELEASING INTO BLOOD A LEVEL OF PLASTICIZED SUBSTANCES HIGHER THAN LEVEL CONSIDERED SAFE BY LAW. A HIGH LEVEL OF PLASTICIZED SUBSTANCES MAY CAUSE LIVER AILMENTS AND ALLERGIC DISTURBANCES, BUT THIS THESIS HAS NOT YET BEEN CLINICALLY  
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PROVED. THERE WAS NEVER ANY MENTION OF A CARCINOGENIC EFFECTS.

4. MINISTRY OF HEALTH OFFICIAL REPORTED THAT NO RPT NO COMMUNICATION SENT TO FDA ON THIS SUBJECT.

5. AS RESULT OF PRESS COVERAGE ON SUBJECT, SPOT CHECKS OF PLASTIC CONTAINERS ARE BEING MADE AT MORE FREQUENT INTERVALS.

6. PROFESSOR LIOTTA WOULD LIKE TO RECEIVE ANY PERTINENT STUDIES OR PUBLICATIONS WHICH FDA HAS CONCERNING PLASTIC CONTAINERS. REQUEST PUBLICATIONS BE SENT TO EMBASSY SCIENCE OFFICE WHICH WILL GIVE THEM TO LIOTTA. VOLPE

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** BLOOD, PLASTIC CONTAINERS, NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 19 JUL 1973  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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